



Enforcement News

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
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L.A. Regional Water Board Enters Settlement, Issues Penalty Against City of Alhambra for Discharge of Raw Sewage

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LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has entered into a settlement agreement with the city of Alhambra and issued a civil penalty of \$795,000 for the alleged discharge of millions of gallons of raw sewage into the state’s waters.

Alhambra violated the terms of its General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems by allegedly discharging raw sewage on five separate occasions, from March 2011 to July 2013, into storm drain systems that led to the Los Angeles and Rio Hondo rivers, as well as other water bodies. In one instance, a sewer line was accidentally connected to a storm drain, funneling 6,084,529 gallons of raw sewage into the Laguna Wash.

An additional \$1.8 million in penalties will be suspended upon completion of several improvement projects that have been identified in the settlement agreement. Some of those projects include improving the city’s gravity sewer system; rehabilitating or replacing lift stations in the sewer system; and complete “severe” and “major” sewer system repairs.

“The potential for sewer overflows from aging collection systems in our region and around the state present a serious threat to public health and the environment,” said Samuel Unger, Regional Water Board executive officer. “The action we have taken today is an effective first step in reducing future overflows and bringing the city back into compliance with their permit.”

For more information and to see the complaint, visit the Regional Board’s [website](#).

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